



The children of Joseph Stacy Murdock, first bishop of Heber City. Most of them spent their lives in Wasatch County. Seated, left to right, Ann Coleman; Margaret Murray, Ellen C. (Lottie) Wright, Jane Hylton. Back row, left to right, Parley A. Murdock, Andrew Murdock, Alva Murdock, William Murdock, David N. Murdock, John H. Murdock and Frank Murdock.

ing program for leadership. Those of experienced leadership quickly trained their counselors and local brethren and then were often called to other areas, leaving Church administration in the hands of those they had trained.

Bishop Murdock chose men of the area as his counselors. They were John W. Witt and Thomas Rasband with John Hamilton as ward clerk. In addition to presiding over Heber Ward, these men also directed Church affairs throughout the valley.

Under Bishop Murdock's direction, presiding elders were appointed in the communities that by this time were large enough to meet separately. John Harvey was named at Center Creek in 1861 and Sidney Epperson was called as presiding elder in 1862 for the upper Snake Creek settlement. In 1864 David Van Wagonen was sustained as presiding elder for the lower Snake Creek area and John Watkins of Midway was later appointed to preside in Charleston and traveled there to hold meetings on Sunday.

The calling of Bishop Murdock in Heber Ward lasted until 1867 when he was called by President Young to move to Southern Utah and attempt to raise cotton there. During his six years in Wasatch County he gained the love and respect of the people for his kindness and gen-

## Heber's first School, Church and Social Hall

### CHAPTER TEN

#### Seek Ye Learning

A human soul without education, Joseph Addison once wrote, is like marble in the quarry, which shows none of its inherent beauties till the skill of the polisher fetches out the colors, makes the surface shine, and discovers every ornamental cloud, spot and vein that runs through the body of it.

The dream of providing this polishing touch of life through good schools was ever-present with the early settlers of Heber City. As detailed in Chapter 6 they built early in their settlement a small, log school and then worked together to provide better one-room schools, then graded schools and finally the educational "star in their crown," the Wasatch High School.

As precious as education was to the early settlers, it still had to take second place to the winning of food from the earth to sustain life. Early educational efforts flourished during winter months when agricultural activity could easily be handled by the "older folks." Spring and summer schooling and learning in the fall was largely behind a plow and in the fields.

Heber's first school, the 20 by 40 foot, one-room building that served also as a Church house and community building, was located on the corner of 3rd North and 2nd West. A fireplace in each end of the building provided the only heat, and students would take turns getting warm as part of the class recited to the teacher and the other half studied around the fires. The building's dirt roof leaked so badly at times that school had to be discontinued while repairs were made.

By 1867 the Utah Territorial Legislature had passed an act that permitted communities, by a majority vote of the taxpayers, to maintain free schools by taxation. Until this time teachers had usually boarded at the homes of pupils and collected salaries in produce. Now, a new era for teachers and school building construction lay ahead.

A one-room rock school building was soon built across the street from the first log school, and then another one-room building, known as the East School, was built at 2nd North and 3rd East, where the First-Sixth Ward Chapel now stands.

Heber's next school building was the old "Sleepy Hollow" school, a one-room rock building in the southwest part of town at 2nd West and 3rd South.

One of the most forward looking steps in education came in 1892 when Henry Aird, a former teacher in the old rock East School, and

The first chapel, a log structure 20x40 feet, was built in time for the Pioneer Day celebration, July 24, 1860, and served the saints for nearly five years. Though it was small and its furnishings crude, it was accepted in the sight of the Lord. Those who came within its walls to worship were blessed abundantly with His spirit. Because the people had faith that their new valley would be fruitful and yield food to sustain their lives, they were blessed profusely by the Lord. Their numbers grew rapidly and in 1861 the officials of the Church felt a ward should be organized.

A familiar pattern in early Church government was followed as President Young and the general authorities established the ward in Heber. Joseph S. Murdock, not a resident of the valley, yet a man who had proved his ability in Church leadership, was ordained as bishop of the new ward. Under the direction of Church officials he moved with his family to Heber City and set about to organize the new ward. This pattern of calling Bishops and Stake Presidents was followed for many years by President Young and his successors, and proved to be a valuable train-